

Hunting and Trapping

Emergency Order

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 02-03-12

Issued at Soldotna, Alaska
October 9, 2012

Effective Date: 11:59 p.m.
October 10, 2012

Expiration Date: June 30, 2013
unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the fall portion (September 15, 2012, through November 30, 2012) of the 2012/13 brown bear drawing permit hunts (DB301, DB303, DB305, DB307 and DB309) and the 2012 (October 1, 2012, through November 30, 2012) registration permit hunt (RB300) in Game Management Units 7 and 15 on the Kenai Peninsula effective 11:59 October 10 and reopens the same permit hunts at 12:01 am October 25 if all human-caused mortalities have not exceeded 10 reproductive-age female bears from January 1 through October 25 based on a three year average. People who received a drawing permit (DB301, DB303, DB305, DB307, or DB309) will also be allowed to hunt during the adjusted fall hunt and the spring portion (April 1, 2013, through June 15, 2013) provided they did not harvest a brown bear this fall. All other brown bear hunting regulations are not affected by this emergency order.

REGULATION:

Therefore, the following regulations in **5AAC 85.020 (6) and (14), Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for Brown Bear**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(6) Unit 7		
1 bear every 4 regulatory years by drawing permit only; up to 50 permits may be issued; or	Sept. 15 – Oct. 10 Oct. 25 – Nov 30 April 1 – June 15 (General hunt only)	Sept. 15 – Oct. 10 Oct. 25 – Nov 30 April 1 – June 15

1 bear every 4 regulatory years by registration permit only	Oct. 1 – Oct. 10 Oct. 25 – Nov 30 (General hunt only)	Oct. 1 – Oct. 10 Oct. 25 – Nov 30
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(14)

Unit 15

1 bear every 4 regulatory years by drawing permit only; up to 50 permits may be issued; or	Sept. 15 – Oct. 10 Oct. 25 – Nov 30 April 1 – June 15 (General hunt only)	Sept. 15 – Oct. 10 Oct. 25 – Nov 30 April 1 – June 15
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1 bear every 4 regulatory years by registration permit only	Oct. 1 – Oct. 10 Oct. 25 – Nov 30 (General hunt only)	Oct. 1 – Oct. 10 Oct. 25 – Nov 30
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All other brown bear hunting regulations for other game management units listed under 5 AAC 85.020 are not affected by this emergency order.

Cora Campbell
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____
Jeff Selinger
Wildlife Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Department manages brown bear harvest on the Kenai Peninsula so that all human-caused mortalities do not exceed 10 reproductive-age female bears from January 1 through December 31. Human-caused mortality includes defense-of-life-or-property kills, automobile collisions, illegally taken brown bears, hunter kills, and management-related deaths. From January 1, through October 9, 2012, documented human-caused mortalities for reproductive-age female brown bears on the Kenai Peninsula have reached 11. Therefore, the fall 2012 brown bear hunting season for drawing hunts DB301, DB303, DB305, DB307, and DB309 and registration hunt RB300 are closed by emergency order.

Given the Board of Game direction to manage on a 3-year average the Department will use some management flexibility to adjust the fall season dates. Most female bears will be in their dens by late October and the Department will reopen the brown bear season to allow additional opportunity for hunters to target male bears. This season will reopen on October 25 at 12:01 am and is currently planned to continue through November 30 or until 10 human-caused mortalities of reproductive age female brown bears based on a 3 year average have occurred.

Drawing permit holders (DB301, DB303, DB305, DB307, and DB309) will also be able to hunt the adjusted fall season and during the spring (April 1, 2013, through June 15, 2013) provided they did not harvest a bear this fall.

DISTRIBUTION:

This emergency order is distributed to the recipients listed below. Copies are available from Department of Fish and Game offices in Anchorage, Juneau, Soldotna and Homer.

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 - Director
 - Deputy Director
 - Regional Supervisors
 - Area Biologists (statewide)
 - Regulatory Coordinator, Information Management
5. Division of Boards
 - Director
 - Board of Game
6. Division of Subsistence, Anchorage Regional Supervisor
7. Public Communications, ADF&G, Juneau, Anchorage
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 - Field Offices: Soldotna, Homer, Palmer, Seward, Anchorage
9. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 - Regional Director, Anchorage
 - Refuge Manager, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge
 - Office of Subsistence Management
10. U.S. Forest Service
 - Regional Forester, Chugach National Forest
 - District Rangers: Girdwood
11. U. S. National Park Service
 - Superintendent, Kenai Fjords National Park
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